

ADVANCES IN PEDIATRICS — Vol. 5. Editor, S. Z. Levine, Cornell University Medical College. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago, Ill., 1952. 273 pages, \$7.00.

Volume 5 is the first issue under this title in two years. This book comprises six monographs, all supported by very extensive bibliographies. The title of the book indicates the scope of the bibliographies.

I. "Advances in the Treatment of Bacterial Meningitis" by Hattie E. Alexander of Columbia University emphasizes the long known principle of optimal treatment rather than minimal, in which section the author explains the development of resistance of the various organisms to the several antibiotics and chemotherapeutic agents. The modes of action of the available agents are outlined. With proper use of the available agents in sufficient dosage there is decidedly less need for intrathecal treatment. The author outlines a very definite mode of treatment for each type of pyogenic meningitis. This section alone makes the volume very valuable for the practitioner.

II. "The Nephrotic Syndrome in Children," by Henry L. Barnett, Carolyn W. Forman and Henry D. Lauson, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. This monograph amasses much experimental data and clinical observation to explain the definition, etiology, pathology and physiology of the syndrome. There is a section devoted to "Experimental Nephrotic Syndrome." The authors feel the nephrotic syndrome is initially a disease of the kidneys, specifically of the glomeruli. A large section is given over to laboratory diagnosis and treatment, where the use of ACTH and cortisone is fully explored. Case histories and charts are prominently displayed.

III. "The Relations of Vitamin K Deficiency to Hemorrhagic Disease of the Newborn," by H. Dam, H. Dyggve, Hjalmar Larsen and P. Plum of Copenhagen, Denmark. The authors show the relationship of vitamin K to the coagulation of blood. The physiology of the prothrombin variations during infancy is outlined. It is the opinion of the authors that hemorrhage of the newborn due to hypoprothrombinemia can be prevented by the administration of vitamin K, either to the mother and the child or to both. Charts and tables are numerous.

IV. "Iron Metabolism in Infants and Children," by Carl H. Smith, Irving Schulman and John E. Morgenthau, New York-Cornell Medical Center. Largely through the use of isotopes many studies have been made dealing with absorption, transport and storage of iron in various physiological and pathological states. The authors define "serum iron," "latent iron combining capacity," "total iron binding capacity" and "percentage saturation." The presence in human plasma of a metal-combining component is established and that serum is transported only when bound to this specific protein. The distribution of the various phases of the iron in the body, together with the absorption, transportation, utilization, storage and excretion is established. Iron metabolism in the newborn is discussed as well as transplacental transfer. Normal values of the various phases of iron metabolism for infants and children are stated. Iron deficiency is not necessarily associated with hemoglobin percentage. Infection and hemolytic disorders are discussed.

V. "Angiocardiographic Studies in Children," by John Lind and Carl Wegelius of Stockholm, Sweden. This is a detailed listing of the technique and apparatus for studying the chambers and the dynamics of the heart without catheterization, by contrast medium, using roentgenography simultaneously in two planes, with electrocardiographic cor-

relation. There are 22 pages of x-rays, clearly printed, showing the results of this technique.

VI. "BCG Vaccination," by Arvid Wallgren, Stockholm, Sweden. This monograph has contributed very little that is new. It is another discussion of this method to control tuberculosis. The types of antituberculosis vaccines are discussed. The treatise is limited primarily to the BCG vaccine, its preparation, methods of administration, complications and untoward effects, the duration of immunity, and criteria for vaccination. The efficiency of such procedure is limited largely to the use of this vaccine in Sweden. A plea for its use as a public health measure is made under certain conditions geographically existing.

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AN ATLAS OF GENERAL AFFECTIONS OF THE SKELETON. Sir Thomas Fairbank, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.S., Hon. M.Ch. (Orth.), F.R.C.S., Consulting Orthopedic Surgeon and Emeritus Lecturer in Orthopedic Surgery, King's College Hospital. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1951. 411 pages, \$10.00.

This volume presents to the interested physician the gleanings of a long and unusually broad experience with disorders of bone. Few physicians will be familiar with all the conditions touched upon in this book; all will be grateful for the opportunity to acquaint themselves with a concise description of an unusual condition when confronted by it. Ordinary conditions are dismissed rather briefly; the rare or unusual are given more space. The text places emphasis upon clinical and radiological features. Pertinent aspects of pathology are discussed, but the physiology, biochemistry, and therapy of skeletal disorders are not considered in this volume. An introduction includes tabular presentations of the levels of calcium, phosphorus, and alkaline phosphatase found in the blood in various conditions, a simplified classification of the types of dwarfism, an enumeration of conditions characterized by increased radiopacity of bone, and a list of the causes of collapse or fracture of bones.

The terminology used to describe the various demineralizing diseases of bone will not be acceptable to all pathologists or endocrinologists; thus, the precise term "osteoporosis" is used loosely to describe the roentgen appearance of the bone in hyperparathyroid bone disease. Some of the x-ray films used as illustrations are either very old or are poorly reproduced. Since the book covers so wide a range of disorders, some probably seen and photographed many years ago, it cannot be expected to demonstrate all conditions with films taken with modern technique.

This book is a "must" for any physician, orthopedist, pediatrician, or roentgenologist who wishes to become an authority on skeletal disorders. It will not supplant more general texts, but will admirably supplement them.

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A SYNOPSIS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY. J. L. C. Martin-Doyle, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.O. (Oxon.), Surgeon, Worcester City and County Eye Hospital; Consultant Ophthalmologist to the Ministry of Pensions and Ministry of National Insurance. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1951. 238 pages, \$4.50.

The title describes the book and the preface states it is designed for medical students, graduate students and busy general practitioners. There are 26 chapters and 238 pages. In this pocket-size edition a large amount of material has been condensed. The approach has the English concepts on ophthalmology and is a very useful book for quick reference.